

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 BERLIN 05741 131741Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EA-07 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 ARA-06
DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /071 W
-----132313Z 057375 /72

R 131540Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4522
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
USMISSION USBERLIN UNN
USMISSION USNATO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BERLIN 5741

E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, GE, VN, VS
SUBJECT: VIETNAMESE DEFMIN VISITS EAST BERLIN

SUMMARY:
THE 11-DAY VISIT TO THE GDR OF A VIETNAMESE
MILITARY DELEGATION UNDER DEFENSE MINISTER VO NGUYEN
GIAP MARCH 28-APRIL 7 RECEIVED PROMINENT COVERAGE
IN GDR MEDIA BUT DID NOT RESULT IN AN OFFICIALLY
ANNOUNCED AGREEMENT OR COMMUNIQUE. GIAP MET WITH
HONECKER, DEFENSE MINISTER HENIZ HOFFMANN AND
POLITBURO MEMBER KURT HAGER DURING HIS STAY,
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 BERLIN 05741 131741Z

BUT SPENT MOST OF HIS TIME OUTSIDE EAST BERLIN
VISITING GDR TROOPS, FACTORIES, AGRICULTURAL COLLECTIVES
AND SCHOOLS ACCOMPANIED BY GDR DEPUTY DEFMIN
WALDEMAR VERNER. AT THE END OF THE VISIT BOTH SIDES
STATED THAT THEY HAD DEEPENED COOPERATION BETWEEN THE
GDR NATIONAL PEOPLE'S ARMY (NVA) AND THE VIETNAMESE
PEOPLE'S ARMY THROUGH "AGREED MEASURES" WITHOUT GOING

INTO SPECIFICS.
END SUMMARY.

1. ACCORDING TO ND REPORTS OF A HONECKER-GIAP MEETING HELD APRIL 4, HONECKER GAVE ASSURANCES THAT THE GDR WOULD CONTINUE TO AID VIETNAM TO OVERCOME THE RESULTS OF "IMPERIALIST AGGRESSION" AND TO BUILD SOCIALISM. BEYOND THIS REFERENCE TO AID FOR VIETNAM, HONECKER SAID NOTHING ABOUT GDR AID TO OTHER THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES IN HIS REMARKS. AT A WORKING MEETING BETWEEN GIAP AND HOFFMANN APRIL 3, BOTH SIDES REPORTEDLY STRESSED THAT THE GDR AND VIETNAM'S LOCATION ON THE BORDER OF SOCIALIST SYSTEMS IN EUROPE AND SOUTH EAST ASIA GIVE THEM A SPECIAL MILITARY ROLE. BOTH SIDES REPORTEDLY EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF VISITS BY MILITARY SPECIALISTS AND OF THE EXCHANGE OF EXPERIENCES ON POLITICAL EDUCATION AND MILITARY TRAINING.

2. IN ITS COVERAGE OF GIAP'S VISITS TO VARIOUS GDR MILITARY INSTALLATIONS, ND REPORTED MARCH 31 THAT GIAP VISITED VIETNAMESE OFFICERS AT THE GDR ARMY COLLEGE IN LOEBAU IN THE ERFURT DISTRICT. ACCORDING TO ND, THE VIETNAMESE STUDENTS WERE PARTICIPANTS IN A PROGRAM OF SEVERAL WEEKSDURATION STUDYING MODERAN WEAPONS TECHNOLOGY AND MARXISM-LENINISM. ACCORDINGTO NDVD ALL OF THE VIETNAMESE OFFICERS HAD FOUGHT AGAINST THE "US AGRESSORS".

3. COMMENT: FOLLOWING LE DUAN'S VISIT TO THE GDR
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 BERLIN 05741 131741Z

IN OCTOBER 1975 GIAP'S VISIT PROVIDES ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY FOR THE GDR TO PLAY UP ITS ROLE IN OFFERING MILITARY AND OTHERAID TO THE THIRD WORLD. AS IN THE CASE OF LUIS CORVALAN'S RECENT VISIT TO EAST BERLIN, THE GDR GAVE GIAP MAXIMUM EXPOSURE ON TRIPS OUTSIDE EAST BERLIN TO REMIND THE GDR CITIZENRY THAT THE GDR SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGNS FOR VIETNAM AND CHILE WERE NOT FOR NAUGHT.

4. WE NOTE THAT AFTER SPENDING HIS FIRST THREE DAYS VISITING OTHER GDR CITIES, GIAP WAS IN EAST BERLIN DURING CASTRO'S SURPRISE APRIL 3 VISIT. THERE IS AS YET NOT EVIDENCE THAT GIAP AND CASTRO MET ON THIS OCCASION, BUT IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THEY DID.

5. IN REPORTING ON GIAP'S VISIT TO THE GDR OFFICER'S ACADEMY ERNST THAELMANN IN LOEBAU, THE GDR HAS FOR THE FIRST TIME OFFICIALLY ADMITED THAT FOREIGN OFFICERS ARE BEING TRAINED IN THE GDR. UP

UNTIL NOW, THERE HAVE BEEN ONLY RUMORS ABOUT SUCH
OFFICER TRAINING IN THE GDR, PARTICULARLY IN THE
FRIEDRICH ENGELS MILITARY ACADEMY IN DRESDEN. NOW
THAT THE GDR HAS OFFICIALLY MENTIONED THE EXISTENCE
OF VIETNAMESE OFFICERS IN LOEBAU. IT APPEARS
POSSIBLE THAT SIMILAR TRAINING IS GOING IN OTHER
GDR MILITARY ACADEMIES, SUCH AS THE GDR AIR FORCE
ACADEMY IN KAMENZ, MARINE ACADEMY IN STRALSUND, AND
BORDER TROOP ACADEMY IN PLAUE.
POLANSKY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, MINISTERIAL VISITS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 13-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BERLIN05741
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770128-1009
Format: TEL
From: BERLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770463/aaaaccpf.tel
Line Count: 126
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: aa6735a6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2825954
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VIETNAMESE DEFMIN VISITS EAST BERLIN SUMMARY: THE 11-DAY VISIT TO THE GDR OF A VIETNAMESE
TAGS: PFOR, GC, VN, VS, (VO NGUYEN GIAP), (HONECKER, ERICH), (HOFFMAN, HEINZ)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/aa6735a6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009